

**CLAIMS:**

5   What is claimed is:

1.   A method of improving performance in a multiprocessor  
system that uses a limited number of physical  
10   interfaces to transact network data comprising the  
steps of:  
  
determining whether data being processed is network  
data; and  
15   transacting, if the data is network data, the data  
using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address.
2.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the virtual IP address is  
20   an address of a buffer.
3.   The method of Claim 2 wherein the buffer is implemented  
using memory allocation.
- 25   4.   The method of Claim 3 wherein the buffer contends for  
access to one of the limited physical interfaces.
5.   The method of Claim 4 wherein before transmitting the  
data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address  
30   is replaced by a destination IP address.

6. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

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code means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

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code means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address.

7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the virtual IP address is an address of a buffer.

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8. The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

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9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

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10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

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11. An apparatus for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

5 means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the virtual IP address is an address of a buffer.

10 13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

15 15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

20 16. A multiprocessor system having means for improving performance comprising:

at least one memory device to store code data; and

25 using one of the processors processor for processing the code data to determine whether data being processed is network data and to transact, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address.

30 17. The multiprocessor system of Claim 16 wherein the virtual IP address is an address of a buffer.

18. The multiprocessor system of Claim 17 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

5 19. The multiprocessor system of Claim 18 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

10 20. The multiprocessor system of Claim 19 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

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